

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: Unknown)
Filing Date: Unknown)
Priority Date: 14 March 2001)
Applicants: JACKSON, Paul)
For: TELEVISION SYSTEM)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Director For Patents
Box: New Application
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is a preliminary amendment to the enclosed application entitled "Television System" claiming priority to British Patent Application No. 0106217.3 filed 14 March 2001.

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, after the title, insert the following headers and paragraph:

--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims priority to British Patent Application No. 0106217.3 filed 14 March 2001.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION-

Page 1, lines 7, 16, 18, and 21, change "programmes" to --programs--; lines 8, 11, 17, 19, 25 and 28, change "programme" to --program--.

Page 2, lines 2, 6 two occurrences, 8, 10, 13, 22, 25, 30 change "programme" to --

program--; lines 21, 23 and 27 change "programmes" to --programs--.

Page 2, after line 14, insert the Header:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

Page 3, lines 2, 5, 8, 10, 12, 13, and 27, change "programme" to --program--.

Page 4, line 1, change "programmes" to --programs--.

Page 5, lines 6, 18, 20, 22, and 25 change "programme" to --program--; lines 11 and 17 change "programmes" to --programs--; line 16, change "characterised" to --characterized--.

Page 6, before the first line insert the following header:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--

Page 6, before line 9, insert the following header:

--DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--

Page 6, lines 11, 12, 15 two occurrences, 18, 21 and 23 change "programme" to --program--; line 16 change "programmes" to --programs--.

Page 7, lines 13, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27 and 29 change "programme" to --program--.

Page 8, lines 1, 2 two occurrences, and 4, change "programme" to --program--; after the last line, insert the following paragraph:

--While the invention has been described with a certain degree of particularity, it is manifest that many changes may be made in the details of construction and the arrangement of components without departing from the spirit and scope of this disclosure. It is understood that the invention is not limited to the embodiments set forth herein for purposes of exemplification, but is to be limited only by the scope of the attached claim or claims, including the full range of equivalency to which each element thereof is entitled.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. A television system, said system comprising: [including]

a display screen;

a broadcast data receiver connected to said display screen [(BDR)] for receiving broadcast digital data in the form of audio, video and/or auxiliary data from a remote broadcaster and for processing said data to allow video and/or text to be selectively viewed on [a] said display screen [connected to the BDR], said video and text which can be selected, including details of [programmes] programs available for selection by a viewer; and [characterised in that]

when a [programme] program which is selected for viewing is part of a series of [programmes] programs, at a pre-determined time point during or at the end of the selected [programme] program, an indication is generated by the [BDR] broadcast data receiver to inform the viewer of the details of the scheduled display of the next episode of the said series of [programmes] programs.

2. (Amended) A television system according to Claim 1 [characterised in that the] wherein said indication of when the next episode is being shown is based on information provided in a text display in [the] said display screen.

3. (Amended) A television system according to Claim 1 [characterised in that the] wherein said indication is generated when [the BDR] said broadcast data receiver detects the end of the selected programme and [the BDR] said broadcast data receiver searches, or has already searched, through [EPG] an electronic program guide data in [the BDR] said broadcast data receiver to identify the scheduled showing of the next episode of the [programme] program

receiver to identify the scheduled showing of the next episode of the [programme] program series.

4. (Amended) A television system according to Claim 1 [characterised in that the] wherein said data relating to the scheduled showing of the next episode of the [programme] program series is broadcast by [the] said remote broadcaster in conjunction with the data for the selected [programme] program whereupon an indication is generated in response to the received data.

5. (Amended) A television system according to Claim 1 [characterised in that the] wherein said indication is typically generated from auxiliary data broadcast from a broadcaster and used for the generation of [the EPG] an electronic program guide.

6. (Amended) A television system according to Claim 1 [characterised in that the] wherein said indication [can] may include any[, or any combination,] from the group consisting of[:] the date when the next episode is to be shown[:], the time at which the next episode is to be shown[:], the channel on which the next episode is to be shown[:], and[/or] a description of the content of the next episode.

7. (Amended) A television system according to Claim 1 [characterised in that if] wherein when the next episode is to be repeated a number of times over a time period, [the] said indication includes details of all showings of the next episode, in that period.

8. (Amended) A television system according to Claim 1 [characterised in that the] wherein

said indication includes details of the showing of the next episode of the [programme] program which does not overlap with any other bookmarked [programmes] programs previously selected by the viewer.

9. (Amended) A television system according to Claim 1 [characterised in that the] wherein said indication is in the form of a text message displayed on [the] said display screen, and overlaid on video data displayed at that time.

10. (Amended) A television system according to Claim 9 [characterised in that the] wherein said displayed text is provided on a semi-transparent background

11. (Amended) A television system according to Claim 1 [characterised in that] wherein display of [the] said indication on [the] said display screen, the viewer has [the] an option of hiding [the] said indication by using an appropriate control key on control means provided.

12. (Amended) A television system according to Claim 1 [characterised in that the] wherein said indication is in the form of an audio message generated by [the BDR] said broadcast data receiver via speakers connected thereto.

13. (Amended) A television system according to Claim 1 [characterised in that] wherein the viewer can set a reminder function so that [the BDR] said broadcast data receiver informs them when the next episode is to be shown at a time nearer the scheduled showing of the next episode.

14. (Amended) A television system according to Claim 1 [characterised in that] wherein the viewer can recall [the] said indication prior to the scheduled showing of the episode by depression of a pre-selected key on control means for [the] said television system.

15. (Amended) A television system according to Claim 1 [characterised in that the] wherein said indication which is generated is displayed for a period of time determined by the user and/or broadcaster.

16. (Amended) A television system according to Claim 1 [characterised in that the] wherein said indication includes information relating to when a repeat of the selected [programme] program is to be shown.

17. (Amended) A method of indicating to a viewer of [the] a television [programme] program when [the] a scheduled showing of the next episode or episodes in a series of television [programmes] programs is/are to occur on a television system[, said television system] including a [BDR] broadcast data receiver for receiving broadcast digital data in the form of audio, video and/or auxiliary data from a remote broadcaster and processing said data for viewing on a display screen and/or listening via speakers connected to the [BDR, characterised in that] broadcast data receiver, said method includes the steps of:

the [BDR] broadcast data receiver identifying whether a series of [programmes] programs exist for a [programme] program selected for viewing on [the] said system[.];

the [BDR] broadcast data receiver searching received data for the next episode in the

when an episode is identified the [BDR] broadcast data receiver then generates an indication to inform the viewer of when the next episode of the [programme] program is to be shown.

Please add new claim 18 as follows:

--18. (New) A television system, said system comprising:

a display screen;

broadcast digital data in the form of audio video and/or auxiliary data including details of a program which may be one in a series of programs available for selection by a viewer; and

a broadcast data receiver for receiving said digital data and for processing said digital data to allow video and/or text to be selectively viewed on said display screen and having indication means for indicating to a viewer at a predetermined time point details of the scheduled display of the next episode in a series of programs.--

REMARKS

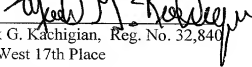
Attached is the clean version of the claims and new paragraphs as required in Section 1.121(4) (ii).

The application should now be in condition for examination, which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted

HEAD, JOHNSON & KACHIGIAN

Dated: 4 March 2002

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New Headers to be Inserted on Page 1, before line 1:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims priority to British Patent Application No. 0106217.3 filed 14 March 2001.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Conventionally, at least some of the video data processed by the BDR relates to television or radio programs being shown on particular channels. An electronic or interactive program guide (EPG) display is selectively generated on the display screen using auxiliary data processed by the BDR. The EPG provides program schedules and listings for a particular period of time for the available channels. EPGs are becoming increasingly useful in place of conventional newspaper or magazine based television listings as the number of available channels on digital television increases and thus the number of programs available for viewing also increases.

In use, when a viewer is watching a particular program which is one of a larger series of related programs, the viewer may wish to know when the next episode of the program is due to be shown. However, even though the EPG display is available, as a result of the large number of programs available for selection for viewing, even if the viewer uses the EPG to look for the time of the next episode in the series, it typically takes the viewer some time to identify the next episode.

In addition, the same program is often repeated a number of times and it is again time consuming for the viewer to look through the EPG or other TV listings to identify which of the next showings of their selected program are repeats of

New Header to be Inserted on Page 2, before line 15:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Replacement Paragraphs to be Inserted into Page 2

previous episode that they have already watched and which are the showings of the next episode of the program series that they have just watched. Thus the viewer may end up watching a repeat of an earlier episode, miss the next episode and/or the like. In some cases the television presenter may announce at the end of the program when the next episode of the program is to be shown but in many cases this does not occur. Furthermore, if the program a viewer has just watched is a repeat of an earlier showing, the announcement at the end of the program may be pre-recorded and therefore out of date.

It is therefore an aim of the present invention to provide a means of allowing a user to quickly and easily determine when the showing of the next episode of a program is scheduled and/or the channel location of the same.

According to a first aspect of the present invention there is provided a television system including a broadcast data receiver (BDR) for receiving broadcast digital data in the form of audio, video and/or auxiliary data from a remote broadcaster and processing said data to allow video and text to be viewed on a display screen connected to the BDR, said video and text including details of programs available for selection by a viewer and characterized in that when a program which is selected for viewing is part of a series of programs, at a pre-determined time point during or at the end of the selected program, an indication is generated by the BDR to inform the viewer of details the scheduled display of next episode of the said series of programs.

Preferably the indication of when the next episode is being shown is based on information provided in an electronic program guide (EPG) display on the display screen.

Replacement Paragraphs to be Inserted in Page 3:

In one embodiment the indication is generated when the BDR detects the end of the selected program and, the BDR searches or has already searched through EPG data in the BDR and identifies the scheduled showing of next episode of the program series. The BDR then generates the indication, to indicate, typically in text, but also possibly audibly, to the viewer the time, date and channel location for the viewing of the next program in the series.

In an alternative embodiment, data relating to the scheduled showing of the next episode of the program series is broadcast by the broadcaster in conjunction with the data stream for the selected program whereupon an indication is generated at the end of the program by the BDR in response to the received data.

Preferably the indication includes details of the showing of the next episode of the program which does not overlap with any

Replacement Paragraph to be Inserted into Page 4:

other bookmarked programs previously selected by the viewer and stored in the EPG.

Replacement Paragraphs to be Inserted into Page 5:

In one embodiment the indication also includes information relating to when a repeat of the program just viewed is to be shown.

According to a second aspect of the present invention there is provided a method of indicating to a viewer when the scheduled showing of the next episode or episodes in a series of television programs is/are to occur on a television system, said television system including a BDR for receiving broadcast digital data in the form of audio, video and/or auxiliary data from a remote broadcaster and processing said data for viewing on a display screen and/or listening via speakers connected to the BDR, characterized in that said method includes the steps of the BDR identifying whether a series of programs exist for a program selected for viewing on the system, the BDR searching received schedule data for the next episode in the selected program series and, if an episode is identified the BDR then generates an indication to inform the viewer of when the next episode of the program is to be shown.

The present invention has the advantage that the user can quickly and easily determine when the next episode of a particular program series is to be shown, without having to manually look through television schedules/listings to obtain the information.

Headers to be Inserted into Page 6

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Replacement Paragraphs to be Inserted into Page 6:

Referring to figure 1, there is illustrated a television system including a display screen 2 connected to a broadcast data receiver 4. The television system has an electronic program guide (EPG) 8 which displays television program listings and/or schedules for a particular time period, 10.

In accordance with the invention, if a viewer is watching a program which is part of a television program series of related programs, a display 6 as shown in Figure 2, is generated by the BDR. The display contains a message on the display screen at the end of the selected program being viewed, informing the viewer of the date and time of when the next episode of the series is to be shown and the channel on which the next program is to be shown.

In addition, a brief description of what is being shown in the next episode of the program can also be provided in the display.

Replacement Paragraphs to be Inserted into Page 7

The viewer can hide the indication if required or select an option from an options menu in the EPG to switch the indication off. Typically the viewer can also select the details provided in the reminder message using the options menu. For example, the viewer can choose whether to be provided with a brief description of what the next episode is about. This allows the viewer to decide whether to set a reminder to be informed nearer the time of the next episode that the program is about to start or has started.

The viewer typically uses a remote control device to select options such as, to hide the indication display; set a reminder in the EPG to be informed of the next showing of the episode and/or display details of the times, channels and dates of all the showings of the next program episode.

In a practical example, if a viewer is watching a selected program titled "Horizon" on BBC Knowledge, then towards the end of the program the BDR searches through received program schedule data. In one embodiment the received data for the selected program indicates that it is part of a series and when the next program is scheduled to be shown. From that data the BDR can display a message as described. Alternatively the BDR can identify the selected program and search through the received EPG data to identify the same program title and when it is next due to be viewed. In either

Replacement and New Paragraph to be Inserted in Page 8:

embodiment, if there is a further program in the same program series as the selected program "Horizon", a display 106 is displayed on the screen to inform the user of when that next episode of the Horizon program series is to be shown as illustrated in Figure 3. The message indicates that the next episode 112 is to be shown four times 114, 116, 118, 120 every day for the next week. The user then selects a reminder for one of the showings 116 so that they are informed of when the selected showing is due to start.

While the invention has been described with a certain degree of particularity, it is manifest that many changes may be made in the details of construction and the arrangement of components without departing from the spirit and scope of this disclosure. It is understood that the invention is not limited to the embodiments set forth herein for purposes of exemplification, but is to be limited only by the scope of the attached claim or claims, including the full range of equivalency to which each element thereof is entitled.

Clean Version of the Claims

1. A television system, said system comprising:

a display screen;

a broadcast data receiver connected to said display screen for receiving broadcast digital data in the form of audio, video and/or auxiliary data from a remote broadcaster and for processing said data to allow video and/or text to be selectively viewed on said display screen, said video and text which can be selected, including details of programs available for selection by a viewer; and

when a program which is selected for viewing is part of a series of programs, at a pre-determined time point during or at the end of the selected program, an indication is generated by the broadcast data receiver to inform the viewer of the details of the scheduled display of the next episode of the said series of programs.

2. (Amended) A television system according to Claim 1 wherein said indication of when the next episode is being shown is based on information provided in a text display in said display screen.

3. (Amended) A television system according to Claim 1 wherein said indication is generated when said broadcast data receiver detects the end of the selected program and said broadcast data receiver searches, or has already searched, through an electronic program guide data in said broadcast data receiver to identify the scheduled showing of the next episode of the program series.

4. (Amended) A television system according to Claim 1 wherein said data

relating to the scheduled showing of the next episode of the program series is broadcast by said remote broadcaster in conjunction with the data for the selected program whereupon an indication is generated in response to the received data.

5. (Amended) A television system according to Claim 1 wherein said indication is typically generated from auxiliary data broadcast from a broadcaster and used for the generation of an electronic program guide.

6. (Amended) A television system according to Claim 1 wherein said indication may include any from the group consisting of the date when the next episode is to be shown, the time at which the next episode is to be shown, the channel on which the next episode is to be shown, and a description of the content of the next episode.

7. (Amended) A television system according to Claim 1 wherein when the next episode is to be repeated a number of times over a time period, said indication includes details of all showings of the next episode, in that period.

8. (Amended) A television system according to Claim 1 wherein said indication includes details of the showing of the next episode of the program which does not overlap with any other bookmarked programs previously selected by the viewer.

9. (Amended) A television system according to Claim 1 wherein said indication is in the form of a text message displayed on said display screen, and overlaid on video data displayed at that time.

10. (Amended) A television system according to Claim 9 wherein said displayed text is provided on a semi-transparent background

11. (Amended) A television system according to Claim 1 wherein display of said indication on said display screen, the viewer has an option of hiding said indication by using an appropriate control key on control means provided.

12. (Amended) A television system according to Claim 1 wherein said indication is in the form of an audio message generated by said broadcast data receiver via speakers connected thereto.

13. (Amended) A television system according to Claim 1 wherein the viewer can set a reminder function so that said broadcast data receiver informs them when the next episode is to be shown at a time nearer the scheduled showing of the next episode.

14. (Amended) A television system according to Claim 1 wherein the viewer can recall said indication prior to the scheduled showing of the episode by depression of a pre-selected key on control means for said television system.

15. (Amended) A television system according to Claim 1 wherein said indication which is generated is displayed for a period of time determined by the user and/or broadcaster.

16. (Amended) A television system according to Claim 1 wherein said indication includes information relating to when a repeat of the selected

program is to be shown.

17. (Amended) A method of indicating to a viewer of a television program when a scheduled showing of the next episode or episodes in a series of television programs is/are to occur on a television system including a broadcast data receiver for receiving broadcast digital data in the form of audio, video and/or auxiliary data from a remote broadcaster and processing said data for viewing on a display screen and/or listening via speakers connected to the broadcast data receiver, said method includes the steps of:

the broadcast data receiver identifying whether a series of programs exist for a program selected for viewing on said system;

the broadcast data receiver searching received data for the next episode in the selected program series; and

when an episode is identified the broadcast data receiver then generates an indication to inform the viewer of when the next episode of the program is to be shown.

18. (New) A television system, said system comprising:

a display screen;

broadcast digital data in the form of audio video and/or auxiliary data including details of a program which may be one in a series of programs available for selection by a viewer; and

a broadcast data receiver for receiving said digital data and for processing said digital data to allow video and/or text to be selectively viewed on said display screen and having indication means for indicating to a viewer at a predetermined time point details of the scheduled display of the next episode in a series of programs.